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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/674,784	
	Filing Date	09/30/2003	
	First Named Inventor	Bernd Hoefflinger et al.	
	Art Unit	2612	
	Examiner Name		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	4965-000163

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): English translation of International Preliminary Examination Report, including page 5 which was missing from the IPER previously sent on 10/20/2004; and postcard.
Remarks The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name	Christopher M. Brock	Reg. No.	27313
Signature					
Date	November 30, 2004				

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.			
Typed or printed name	Christopher M. Brock	Express Mail Label No.	EV 406 075 952 US (11/30/2004)
Signature		Date	November 30, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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EV 406 075 952 US

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2613P107WO-TDd		FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2002/003356	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 March 2002 (26.03.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 03 April 2001 (03.04.2001)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N 5/217			
Applicant INSTITUT FÜR MIKROELEKTRONIK STUTTGART			

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>7</u> sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 16 August 2002 (16.08.2002)	Date of completion of this report 06 June 2003 (06.06.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/EP2002/003356

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.):

☐ the international application as originally filed.

☒ the description, pages 1-26, as originally filed,
 pages _____, filed with the demand,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the claims, Nos. _____, as originally filed,
 Nos. _____, as amended under Article 19,
 Nos. _____, filed with the demand,
 Nos. 1-24, filed with the letter of 27 February 2003 (27.02.2003),
 Nos. _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the drawings, sheets/fig 1/8-8/8, as originally filed,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the demand,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____,
 sheets/fig _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-24	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: GB-A-2 149 605 (MARCONI AVIONICS) 12 June 1985
(1985-06-12)

1. Document D1 is considered the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1 and discloses (the references between parentheses refer to that document):

a method for the FPN correction of image signals (see page 2, line 56 to page 6, line 43; and figures 2A, 2B, 4 and 5) generated by image cells of an image sensor, said method comprising the following steps:

- a) determining in which of at least two value ranges the image signal value lies at a predetermined moment in time; and
- b) determining a corrected value for the image signal in accordance with the result from step a),

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the determining of the corrected value according to step b) comprising the following steps:

- bi) selecting correction coefficients from several sets of correction coefficients according to the result of step a); and
- b2) calculating the corrected value for the image signal using the selected correction coefficients; and

the correction coefficients transforming the image signal value in line with a determined approximation characteristic curve, as per the preamble of claim 1.

2. The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the method known from D1 in that the determined approximation characteristic curve for at least one value range is a segment of a parabola.

The subject matter of claim 1 thus meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2).

3. The above additional feature in claim 1 makes it possible to improve the quality of the FPN correction in relation to known methods, which use only rectilinear sections, since the use of an approximation characteristic curve that at least in sections is in the shape of a parabola allows better approximation to the optimum characteristic curve in the mathematical sense and with a reduced outlay.

The subject matter of claim 1 thus meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).

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4. Since the subject matter of claim 17 concerns a device corresponding to the method in claim 1 and comprises features equivalent to the method steps in claim 1, this claim also meets the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3) for corresponding reasons.
5. Dependent claims 2 to 16 and 18 to 24 add further details to the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 17 and therefore also meet the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and (3).
6. Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not cite document D1 or indicate the relevant prior art disclosed therein.

Contrary to PCT Rule 5.1(a)(iii), the description is inconsistent with the claims.

WITTE, WELLER & PARTNER

Patentanwälte

22. Okt. 2004

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